

**In the Specification:**

Please amend pages 10-11, 15-16, 18-19 and 33 of Applicant's specification as follows (with proposed insertions underlined and proposed deletions [bracketed]):

1. For the paragraph starting at line 15 of page 10 and bridging to the top of page 11, please revise the numerical reference to the two mat panels of FIG. 9B, at line 2 of page 11, from "(35)" to "(35A)", so that the paragraph, as amended, reads:

As shown in FIGS. 5 through 7, the four-prong connector (6) of the present invention is essentially comprised of two two-prong connectors (5) joined at their upper members (10) by at least one spanning connector (45) and, preferably, by two spanning connectors (45) and (50). Any number of two-prong connectors (5) can be joined in series to form a larger, multi-prong connector and remain within the scope of this invention. The four-prong connector (6) encompasses all of the variations and details of the two-prong connector (5). Spanning members (45) and (50) may be of any size and length that accommodates the holes (7) and (8) in the mat panels (35). The four-prong connector (6) may be used to connect two mat panels (35A) (as shown in FIG. 9B), four mat panels (35) (as shown in FIG. 9C), or three mat panels (35) (as shown in FIG. 9D). Other connection variations are also possible, including, but not limited to, connecting mat panels (35) at various angles (as shown in FIG. 12). In addition, four-prong connectors (6) can be used in conjunction with two-prong connectors (5) to form a continuous surface covered by mat panels (35), as shown in FIGS. 8, 9C, 9D, 11A through 12.

2. For the paragraph starting at line 18 of page 15 and bridging to the top of page 16, please (i) revise the numerical reference to the mat panels of FIG. 9B, at lines 2 and 3 of page 16, from “(35)” to “(35A)”; and (ii) insert a reference numeral “(35)” after the words “two mat panels” near the end of line 3 of page 16 to distinguish those panels from mat panels 35A. As amended, this paragraph should now read:

FIGS. 5 through 7 and 8 depict a four-prong connector (6) according to another embodiment of the present invention. The four-prong connector (6) allows for flexibly connecting four mat panel openings (7) and (8). Among the mat panel (35) combinations that may be secured with the four-prong connector (6) are the following: (i) four mat panels (35) with one opening (7) near a corner of each mat panel (35) (FIG. 9C); (ii) two mat panels (35) having pairs of openings (8) on one end of each mat panel (35A) (FIG. 9B); (iii) one mat panel (35A) having a pair of openings (8) on one end and two mat panels (35) each having an opening (7) near one corner (FIG. 9D); etc.

3. For the paragraph starting at line 21 of page 18 and bridging to the top of page 19, please (i) revise the parenthetical in the last line of page 18 from “(35)” to “(35 and 35A)” to add a numerical reference for the alternative mat panel; and (ii) amend the reference to the common mat panels of FIG. 10 from “(35)” to “(35B)”, in the first and third lines of page 19; so that the paragraph, as amended, reads:

FIGS. 9A through 9D illustrate the use of the two- and four-prong connectors (5) and (6) with various combinations of mat panels (35 and 35A).

FIG. 10 shows a common mat panel (35B) with holes (7) and (8) in a variety of locations including corner holes (7) and pairs of holes (8). The holes (7) in the corners of FIG. 10's mat panel (35B) accommodate two- or four-prong connectors (5) and (6) as shown in FIG 9C. The pairs of holes (8) accommodate either pairs of two-prong connectors (5) or four-prong connectors (6).

4. For the second full paragraph of page 19, starting at line 11, please (i) amend the numerical reference to the "two series of mat panels" in line 14, from "(35)" to "(35B)"; (ii) amend the reference in line 16, from "FIG. 13" to "FIG. 12"; and (iii) amend the last "connected mat panels" reference at the end of that paragraph, page 19, line 17, from "(35)" to "(35B)"; so that the paragraph, as amended, reads:

FIG. 11A illustrates the use of two mat panels (35) joined by two-prong connector (5). The mat panels form a drive path surface upon which to drive a vehicle. FIG. 11B shows the use of two- and four-prong connectors (5) and (6) to connect two series of mat panels (35B) to form a dual drive path. FIG. 11C illustrates a continuous surface covered by mat panels (35) connected by two- and four-prong connectors (5) and (6). FIG. 12[13] shows the dual drive path of FIG. 11B abutting a perpendicular series of connected mat panels (35B).